

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Page 9, before claim 1, replace the single word heading CLAIMS with the following heading:

CLAIMS WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for stacking tube sections ~~(30)~~ for producing bags, comprising ~~with~~ a transporting facility ~~(12)~~, which supplies the tube sections to a stacking station ~~(10)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ the transporting facility ~~(12)~~ has including:

an upper transport, ~~(14)~~ and

a lower transport ~~(16)~~ and ~~that the lower transport (16)~~ is formed in ~~the~~ a region of the stacking station ~~(10)~~ by two endless conveyor belts ~~(44)~~, which revolve above the stacking station outside of ~~the~~ lateral edges of the tube sections ~~(30)~~, and

~~are connected by~~ at least two cross members ~~(48, 50)~~, which connect the two endless conveyor belts and which are disposed with uniform spacings, ~~the spacings of which~~ corresponding to ~~the~~ spacings between ~~the~~ leading edges of consecutively supplied tube sections ~~(30)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ downstream ends of the lower transport ~~(16)~~ and the upper transport ~~(14)~~ are offset relative to one another in ~~the~~ a longitudinal direction thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~claims 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one leaf spring ~~(56)~~ is disposed in the upper transport ~~(14)~~ and presses the tube section ~~(30)~~ provided downward in ~~the~~ a direction of the stacking station.

4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the transporting facility ~~(12)~~ has an inlet section ~~(32)~~, in which ~~the~~ a vertical distance between the upper and lower conveyor belts ~~(34, 36)~~ decreases in ~~the~~ a transporting direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4, further comprising ~~characterized in that, in the inlet section,~~ a length-adjustable clamping roller ~~(38) is disposed in the inlet section,~~ which deflects the upper conveyor belt ~~(34)~~ against the lower conveyor belt ~~(36)~~, in order to take hold of the leading edge of a tube section ~~(30)~~, which has been supplied.

6. (Currently Amended) The transporting facility of claim 1, further comprising a severing device ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that,~~ upstream from the transporting facility ~~(12), a severing device (24) is disposed,~~ with which an endless tube ~~(18)~~ is divided into tube sections ~~(30)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the severing device ~~(24)~~ has a tear-of head, which tears off the tube sections ~~(30)~~ at pre-perforated places from an endless tube ~~(18)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 6, wherein ~~claims 6 or 7, characterized in that the~~ a transporting speed of the transporting facility ~~(12)~~ is greater than ~~the~~ a speed, with which the tube ~~(18)~~ is supplied upstream to the severing device ~~(24)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for stacking tube sections ~~(30), especially of a multilayer material,~~ used for producing bags, comprising the steps of:

holding for which a tube section ~~(30)~~ ~~is held~~ in a transporting facility ~~(12)~~ with ~~its~~ a leading edge thereof clamped between a cross member ~~(48)~~ of a lower transport ~~(16)~~ and an upper transport, ~~(14)~~ ~~and supplied and~~

supplying the tube section to a position above a stacking station ~~(10)~~, while a different cross member ~~(50)~~ of the lower transport ~~(16)~~, which is returning above the stacking station ~~(10)~~ to ~~the~~ an upstream end of the transporting facility, holds ~~the~~ a trailing, rear end of the tube section ~~(30)~~ away from the stack ~~(52)~~, until the leading edge is released by the first cross member ~~(40)~~ and the tube section falls onto the stack.

10. (New) The device of claim 2, wherein at least one leaf spring is disposed in the upper transport and presses the tube section provided downward in a direction of the stacking station.

11. (New) The device of claim 2, wherein the transporting facility has an inlet section, in which a vertical distance between the upper and lower conveyor belts decreases in a transporting direction.

12. (New) The device of claim 3, wherein the transporting facility has an inlet section, in which a vertical distance between the upper and lower conveyor belts decreases in a transporting direction.

13. (New) The transporting facility of claim 2, further comprising a severing device upstream from the transporting

facility, with which an endless tube is divided into tube sections.

14. (New) The transporting facility of claim 3, further comprising a severing device upstream from the transporting facility, with which an endless tube is divided into tube sections.

15. (New) The transporting facility of claim 4, further comprising a severing device upstream from the transporting facility, with which an endless tube is divided into tube sections.

16. (New) The transporting facility of claim 5, further comprising a severing device upstream from the transporting facility, with which an endless tube is divided into tube sections.

17. (New) The device of claim 7, wherein a transporting speed of the transporting facility is greater than a speed, with which the tube is supplied upstream to the severing device.